

Introduced by Senator Machado

February 6, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21—Relative to sudden child cardiac arrhythmia syndrome.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 21, as introduced, Machado. Sudden child cardiac arrhythmia syndrome.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to take necessary action to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a program of screenings and education regarding children with sudden cardiac arrhythmia syndromes.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Teague Ryan was a five-year old boy who died of
2 long Q-T syndrome, a genetic heart problem that caused the
3 electrical rhythm of the heart to malfunction. It usually occurs in
4 children or young adults; and
5 WHEREAS, Each month in the United States between 250 and
6 600 children die suddenly and unexpectedly from cardiac
7 arrhythmia syndromes. These syndromes include long Q-T
8 syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia, hypertrophic
9 cardiomyopathy, and other conditions; and
10 WHEREAS, Long Q-T syndrome is more common in the
11 United States than childhood leukemia; and
12 WHEREAS, Most cardiac arrhythmia syndromes are
13 identifiable through screenings. Once diagnosed, these
14 syndromes are treatable and individuals can lead a normal life.
15 Currently, children are not automatically screened for any cardiac
16 arrhythmia syndromes; and

1 WHEREAS, The Secretary of the federal Department of
2 Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the
3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is authorized to
4 make awards of grants to states, and other public or nonprofit
5 private entities, such as the Cardiac Arrhythmias Research and
6 Education Foundation, the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes
7 Foundation, and the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, These federal grants would be used to screen
10 children under 19 years of age for sudden arrhythmic syndromes,
11 provide referrals for medical services regarding these syndromes,
12 and provide education to health professions and the public,
13 including education on screening methods; and

14 WHEREAS, The Secretary is required to give priority in
15 making awards to children who participate in organized sports;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Secretary is authorized to provide technical
18 assistance to grantees regarding the planning, development, and
19 operation of programs. This technical assistance may be made
20 directly or through grants. The Secretary is required to provide
21 for evaluations of programs in order to determine the
22 effectiveness and quality of the programs; and

23 WHEREAS, The federal government has appropriated the
24 amount of \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year 2006, and such sums as
25 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010;
26 now, therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
28 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
29 respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the
30 United States to take necessary action to amend the Public Health
31 Service Act to provide for a program of screenings and education
32 regarding children with sudden cardiac arrhythmia syndromes;
33 and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
35 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
36 States, to the Speaker of the United States House of
37 Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States
38 Senate, to the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations,

- 1 and to each Senator and Representative from California in the
- 2 Congress of the United States.

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